



G R E E C E

**Statement by Ambassador Chryssoula Aliferi
Resident Representative of Greece to the IAEA,
Head of Delegation at the Nuclear Security Ministerial Conference of the IAEA,
Vienna, December 5-9th, 2016**

Mr. President,

On behalf of Greece I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Director General Mr. Amano for convening for the second time this important Conference on Nuclear Security for *all* IAEA Member-States.

Greece fully aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished Representative of Slovakia on behalf of the **European Union** and fully supports the **Ministerial Declaration** adopted by this Conference.

Mr. President,

At a national level, I would like to stress the following:

Greece, at a crossroad of continents, assigns particular importance to Nuclear Security globally and regionally. We recognize the leading role of the IAEA in this area and reaffirm our strong commitment to increased bilateral cooperation with the Agency.

The implementation of the IAEA's Nuclear Security guidelines, measures and procedures, especially in volatile environments, has become a necessity of even greater significance than three years ago. We underline the benefits of enhanced implementation and relevant transparency of the independent Peer Review missions.

Greece's **commitment** to Nuclear Security is given and pertinent **actions** prove it.

We ratified and implement *all* relevant IAEA instruments, including of course the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM). Greece as

a **maritime nation**, currently chairs, through its regulatory authority, the Mediterranean Network for the Safe and Secure Transport of radioactive Materials.

A major step at Greece's long and successful cooperation with the IAEA in the field of Nuclear Security was the first ever development and implementation of a **Nuclear Security Project for a Major Public Event**, on the occasion of the **Olympic Games** hosted in Athens back in 2004, under the international cooperation of the Greek Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC), the IAEA and the USA, France, Australia and Germany. We are proud to recall, that current fundamental concepts on Nuclear Security were incepted and developed through practical experience gained during these Games in Greece.

Since the first Nuclear Security Conference in July 2013, the Greek Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC), in cooperation with the IAEA, the US-Department of Energy and relevant Greek security and customs authorities, has successfully accomplished a series of improvements in the Nuclear Security system of the country.

We **upgraded and modernized**, with additional material where necessary:

- the radiation monitoring facilities at the **Kipi border crossing** between Greece and Turkey
- the custom nuclear security infrastructure at the **seaport of Piraeus** (the cruise terminal) where 4 additional radiation detection portal systems have already been available and
- the custom offices at the **International Airport Makedonia** in Thessaloniki, where installation of new technology portable radiation detector systems (so called backpacks) and corresponding training have been completed.

During this period, the Greek Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC) continued its established **national education and training programme**: more than 100 nuclear security officers have been trained in 10 training courses, comprising lectures, on-the-job-training, table-top exercises and in-the-field exercises. During the upcoming months a training schedule is established for more than 300 **fire brigades** of all Greek airports. In parallel, refreshment-training courses for all **custom officers** are being conducted.

An **IAEA Regional Training Centre in Europe for Nuclear Security** was indeed established at the Greek Atomic Energy Commission, through Practical Arrangements signed between the Greek Government and the IAEA at the margins of the first Nuclear Security Conference in 2013: our National Agency and the IAEA have since conducted 4 workshops, 3 training courses and 2 scientific visits with the participation of more than 160 officers from 55 IAEA Member-States of different regions.

During the same period, Greece continued to contribute to the IAEA efforts in strengthening Nuclear Security capabilities through the IAEA Nuclear Sciences and Technology, and the Technical Cooperation Programs, by **providing the IAEA with scientists**, who shared and gained experience by participating in regional projects, international missions and technical meetings. Greek Atomic Energy Commission staff members participated as lecturers and experts in more than 15 nuclear security related activities around the world.

Greece is furthermore honoured by the Director General's decision to re-appoint a distinguished **Greek expert**, Mr. Matikas, to serve for a second term as member of **AdSec**, the DG's Advisory Group on Nuclear Security, for the coming three years period.

Greek experts are also actively participating at this very Conference by co-chairing the panel on Nuclear Security in Major Public Events as well as by presenting their scientific research at the National Center for Nuclear Scientific Research "Demokritos" as well as at the "Democritos" University of Thrace.

Concluding, Mr. President,

We are confident that the Conference will promote international cooperation and raise greater awareness of the responsibility of each and every one of us, through our own **commitment and actions, when using "atoms for peace", to do so in a safe and secure way.**

The Greek Government reiterates its strong **support** to the important mission of the IAEA as well as **its commitment** to continuing its active cooperation with the Agency.

Thank you.